

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9138
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, BC
SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL CHANGES

REF: GABORONE 2205

1. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 16 TWO MINISTERIAL CHANGES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 17. DR. G.K. T. CHIEPE, (THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE GOVERNMENT) PRESENTLY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MOVES TO MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS. THIS POST WAS LEFT VACANT BY THE NOVEMBER 30 DEATH OF M.K. SEGOKGO (REFTEL). PETER S. MMUSI, ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, WILL BECOME MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. THERE IS NO INDICATION WHETHER OR WITH WHOM PRESIDENT KHAMA WILL FILL MMUSI'S CURRENT POSITION.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY EFFECTIVE OR WELL-ORGANIZED DURING DR. CHIEPE'S TENURE, THE FAULT MAY LIE PRIMARILY WITH THE QUALITY OF STAFF SHE WAS GIVEN. (COMMERCE IS REFERRED TO BY SOME AS THE "DUMPING GROUND" OF THE GOVERNMENT). PRESIDENT KHAMA MUST HAVE THOUGHT HIGHLY OF HER RECENT PERFORMANCE
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(ALTHOUGH BRIEF) AS ACTING MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES, PROBABLY THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT MINISTRY IN THE GOB. CLEARLY SHE ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT.

3. PETER MMUSI WAS AN EXTREMELY ABLE LABOUR COMMISSIONER BEFORE RESIGNING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1974 TO RUN FOR

PARLIAMENT. HIS ABILITIES WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE PRESIDENT WHO APPOINTED MMUSI TO FINANCE AND PLANNING, CERTAINLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND BEST-STAFFED MINISTRY IN GOB. MMUSI'S APPOINTMENT TO FULL MINISTER AND CHIEPE'S TRANSFER TO A MORE IMPORTANT MINISTRY ARE CLEARLY PROMOTIONS. END COMMENT.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

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